

MASSACHUSETTS TRANSPORTATION REFORM LAW

New Law Will Put an End to Big Dig Culture, Abolish the Turnpike and Help Secure the Commonwealth's Economic Future

Governor Patrick has signed a transportation reform bill to help secure the Commonwealth's economic future by radically simplifying bureaucracy and delivering real cost savings by curbing out-of-scale health and pension benefits. When combined with a new source of dedicated revenue, the new transportation law will put an end to decades of neglect and inaction by building a unified transportation organization that can support economic growth by fixing broken roads and bridges, investing in regional equity and strengthening public transit.

DELIVERING MILLIONS IN LONG TERM COST SAVINGS

- Abolishes the Turnpike Authority, Outdoor Advertising Board and Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission. State Police Colonel assumes responsibility for management of Turnpike Troop E.
- Puts an end to out-of-scale pension and health benefits:
 - Ends "23 and out" for all new MBTA employees. Retirement eligibility will be modified to require retirement age of 55.
 - MBTA, Turnpike and Tobin Bridge employees and retirees shifted to state health insurance program resulting in tens of millions in savings over the long term.
 - Turnpike and Tobin Bridge employees converted to state retirement system.
- All assets at MHD, Turnpike, and MBTA covered under state's tort liability provision (capped at \$500,000), with the exemption for MBTA for serious bodily injury or death.

RADICALLY SIMPLIFYING BUREAUCRACY

- Creates a unified transportation organization, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to oversee four divisions:
 - Highway, including Turnpike assets, Tobin Bridge, DCR bridges and most parkways.
 - Mass Transit with oversight over MBTA and RTAs.
 - Aeronautics.
 - Registry of Motor Vehicles.
- MassDOT includes five-person board with transportation, finance, and engineering expertise, appointed by the Governor; a Secretary appointed by the Governor acting as Chief Executive Officer; and an Office of Planning & Programming that answers to the Secretary/CEO to oversee planning and activities for all transportation divisions and modes.
- Creates the Transportation Trust Fund, to ensure that transportation revenues are spent on transportation.
- Requires forward funding for RTAs to help strengthen, expand region transit access.
- Establishes reporting requirements on integration, management and performance to ensure accountability and transparency.
- Retains discount for Fast Lane transponders.